



Saint Michael Catholic Community



800 85 Street SW | 403-249-0423 | info@saintmichael.ca | December 8, 2024

Second Sunday of Advent

We are the Baptized

The significance of St. John the Baptist in our history of salvation is that he heralded the coming of Christ by proclaiming a baptism of repentance. His baptism is the forerunner of our Christian baptism which gives us the Christian life. Baptism leaves an indelible mark in the soul of the baptized, which we refer to as the baptismal character. Baptism characterizes the baptized, setting us apart, giving us the mandate to share with others the faith we have received. We are marked with the sign of faith.

Baptism begins the process of integrating the baptized into the community which reaches its fulfillment when we share the Eucharist. Baptism is the first step of a three-step process of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist which are also referred to as the Sacraments of Initiation. It is in the Eucharist (at Mass) that we share full communion with the Church.

Baptism, through the renewal of our baptismal promises, reminds us that we shape our lives by the choices we make. The renewal of our baptismal promises gives us the opportunity to reflect on the direction of our lives and to strengthen our resolve to be Christians. The words of the rite are richly symbolic. They ask us to choose between slavery to sin and the freedom of being God's children, between darkness and light, between the glamour of evil and the simplicity of truth. Ultimately, they ask us to choose between Satan and Christ.

We often refer to baptism as a christening which means *joining to Christ*. Through baptism we are united to Christ. We become Christians, members of the Church. The original meaning of the word "Christ" is *anointed one*. In the Scriptures, someone chosen for a special role such as priest, prophet, or king was anointed with a fragrant olive oil. When the followers of Jesus eventually recognized Him as the Messiah, they began to call him Christ, which means *God's anointed one*. In baptism, we are also anointed with Holy Christ to express our unity with Christ and to show that we are called to share in Christ's work as priest, prophet, and king.

fredmund@saintmichael.ca

Healing Lines

A person who is being abused is not easily identifiable. They may be your neighbor. They may sit with you on a committee at Church. Maybe they are the parent of one of your children's friends. They may be the tenant downstairs, the older person who you visit at the park, or your sibling. Many who are abused try to let people know what is happening. They may not come out and say the words, but they may drop hints that all is not well. Be aware that violence against anyone is not just a statistic but may be happening to people you know.

Mass Schedule for this Weekend

Saturday, December 7 at 5:00 pm: Fr. Edmund Vargas
Sunday, December 8 at 8:30 am Morning Prayer: Fr. Kelvin Chukwurah
Sunday, December 8 at 9:00 am: Fr. Kelvin Chukwurah
Sunday, December 8 at 11:00 am: Fr. Edmund Vargas
Sunday, December 8 at 5:00 pm: Fr. Edmund Vargas

Glad to have you here!

We welcome new parishioners and visitors. We'd love to see you again! Please register at the Parish Office, or online at saintmichael.ca

Connect with us

Follow us on social media at [@saintmichael.ca](https://www.instagram.com/saintmichael.ca)

Also, join Flocknote by texting **SMCYC** to **514-900-0130** or by visiting flocknote.com/smcyc



Church Schedule

Subject to change

Weekday & Weekend Masses:

Tuesday: 6:00 pm
Wednesday to Friday: 9:00 am
Saturday: 5:00 pm
Sunday: 9:00 am, 11:00 am, and 5:00 pm

Sunday 11:00 am live-stream
at saintmichael.ca/Mass or on Facebook Live

Reconciliation:

Friday: 8:00 am to 8:45 am
Saturday: 3:30 pm to 4:45 pm

Eucharistic Adoration:

Friday: 9:30 am to 10:30 am

Office Hours:

Tuesday to Friday: 9:30 am to 12:00 pm noon

Home & Hospital Visits

If **you** or a **family member** is sick and cannot make it to Mass, and needs Anointing of the Sick and/or Holy Communion, we can arrange to have one of our priests visit them. Please call the Parish Office at **403-249-0423** to schedule a visit.

Diocese of Calgary 24-Hour Emergency

Priest Paging Hotline: 403-231-9505.

Serving the following hospitals:

Alberta Children's, Foothills, Peter Lougheed, Rockyview, and South Health Campus.

Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24: 4:00pm, 7:00pm (live-streamed), 10:00pm
Christmas Day, Wednesday, December 25: Mass: 9:00am, 11:00am (with incense and live-streamed)
Boxing Day, Thursday, December 26: Daily Mass: 9:00am
Friday, December 27: Daily Mass: 9:00 am
Saturday, December 28: Regular Mass: 5:00 pm
Sunday, December 29: Regular Masses: 9:00am, 11:00am (with incense and live-streamed), 5:00 pm
New Years Eve, Tuesday, December 31: Mass: 5:00 pm
New Years Day, Wednesday, January 1: Mass: 9:00 am, 11:00am (with incense and live-streamed)

Events and Announcements

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary | Day Chapel | Monday, December 9, 2024 | Masses at 9:00am and 6:00pm

This year, since the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception falls on a Sunday, the feast will be transferred to Monday, December 9. We will be celebrating Masses at 9:00am and 6:00pm that day.

St. Michael's Fundraiser | High-Quality Protein Products | Pick-up Tuesday, December 10, 4:00-5:00pm

We launched a parish-wide fundraising sale of high-quality protein products to help support our increasing needs as a community as we continue to witness God's love and compassion in our midst. With any purchase, you contribute to our Church's finances while enjoying some delicious food over the Advent and Christmas period. There are over 60 products to choose from! The orders can be picked up on Tuesday, December 10, 4:00-5:00pm at St. Michael's Church. Please go to this link: [St. Michael Catholic Community – Fund Forward](#)

2025 Contribution Envelopes | Narthex | Pick Up December 14 and 15

Next year's 2025 contribution envelopes will be available for pickup in the gathering area on December 14 and 15. Please look for your name alphabetically organized. If you have any questions, please call the parish office at 403-249-0423.

"Immerse" Youth Night with Face-To-Face Ministries for Gr.6-8 | Saturday, December 7, 2024 | Sanctuary | 6:30-8:30pm

DATE AND TIME CHANGE: There will be a Youth Night for Grades 6, 7, and 8 with Face-To-Face Ministries on Saturday, December 7 from 6:30-8:30pm. Pizza will be provided. This is a free event; no registration is needed. Join us for fun, fellowship, and faith! (Please note: this night is replacing the previous date Dec. 18.)

Potluck Sunday | Sunday, December 8, 2024 | Narthex | 6:00pm

The next Potluck Sunday will be on Sunday, December 8 at 6:00pm. This is a free event for all St. Michael's community. Please bring a main dish, bread, salad, pickles, vegetable tray, or dessert to share with others. Please bring your food ready to serve. Our monthly potluck expenses being re-imbursed by the parish amount to close to \$500. Interested families or individuals may consider contributing to this parish expense.

CWL General Meeting | Tuesday, December 10, 2024 | St. Michael's Room | 7:00pm

The CWL General Meeting will take place on Tuesday, December 10 at 7:00pm (following Mass and Rosary) in the St. Michael's Room. Short business meeting and Christmas festivities and fellowship to follow. All members and visitors are welcome to attend.

Mission Mexico Sunday | December 14 and 15, 2024 | Donation Boxes in Narthex

Join us in supporting Mission Mexico Day on December 12, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and Mission Mexico Sunday on December 15. These special days remind us of our call to walk in solidarity with marginalized communities in southern Mexico, providing vital support for education, healthcare, and sustainable development. Let us come together to share hope and transform lives through our generosity. Donation boxes will be in the Narthex the weekend of December 14 and 15. Thank you.

Hamper Delivery Day | Monday, December 16, 2024

A big thank you to all parishioners for their wonderful response to our hamper campaign. This week we are preparing and wrapping the children's gifts and awaiting the delivery of our wholesale food order. *Note that the gifts are due by Sunday, December 8, at 12:00pm noon.* If you are unable to provide your gift by the deadline, please email us christmashampers@saintmichael.ca or call the parish office at 403-249-0423 so that we can source a replacement gift. Thank you also to those who are volunteering their time on Hamper Day. You will receive an email later this week confirming details. If you are unable to make your commitment, please visit our on-line schedule and update your volunteer slot. If you missed the sign-up and want to join the fun, check the volunteer sign-up page, as last-minute cancellations always find us with space to accommodate willing hands! We are supporting 170 families through the Hamper Program, and SSVF is receiving more requests each day. There is still time to offer support. Donations may be dropped in the collection, or check out the various ways to support us on the Donate tab on the parish website, saintmichael.ca.



Catholic Women's League | Membership Drive and Family Fun Raffle | Tickets Available until December 16 | Prizes Drawn on December 17

The CWL is now accepting membership renewals and new members for 2025. Membership fees are \$35/year and can be paid by E-transfer to: smcwl-treasurer@gmail.com with the word "membership" in the details, or by cheque payable to St. Michael's CWL, or cash to the parish office. Please include your contact details. Thanks to those who have already renewed their memberships, and a special welcome to our new members! We also recently kicked off our "Family Fun" themed raffle. Thanks to those who have already purchased tickets/donated. Tickets are \$5 each and are available through December 16 by E-transfer to: smcwl-treasurer@gmail.com Please include your name and phone number. Prizes will be drawn on December 17. / 1st Prize: "Family Fun" themed gift basket valued at \$300 / 2nd Prize: Promix Stand Mixer with baking accessories and mixes valued at \$110 / 3rd Prize: \$50 Visa gift card AGLC Raffle Licence #715200.

Parish-Wide Advent Reconciliation Night | Thursday, December 19, 2024 | Sanctuary | 7:00-9:00pm

There will be a parish-wide Reconciliation Night on Thursday, December 19, 2024 from 7:00-9:00pm with a number of priests available to hear confessions.

"One Starry Night" Children's Christmas Nativity Pageant | Friday, December 20, 2024 | Sanctuary | Mass 6:00pm | Pageant 6:30pm

Rehearsals are now underway for our Children's Nativity Pageant! The sign-up genius is now closed. Please join us on Friday, December 20 with Mass at 6:00pm followed by the Nativity Pageant at 6:30pm and Cookies and Juice afterwards. All are welcome!

Events and Announcements

Simbang Gabi | Saturday, December 21, 2024 | Sanctuary | Carols 6:30pm | Mass 7:00pm | Reception 7:30pm

Simbang Gabi Mass will be celebrated at our parish on Saturday, December 21, 2024 at 7:00pm, preceded by Carols at 6:30pm. This will be followed by a reception. Filipino families are encouraged to email Fr. Edmund at FrEdmund@saintmichael.ca or text him at 403-874-2015 if you are interested to help contribute to the reception.

Grief Share Program | Tuesdays: January 14 - March 4, 2025 | Rooms 143 and 144 | 7:00 - 9:00pm

Grief Share is a special weekly seminar and support group designed to help you rebuild your life after losing a loved one. Our group is led by caring people who have experienced grief and want to help you through the difficult days ahead. We know it hurts, and we want to help. This program consists of a **video seminar** (Christian based with personal stories from Christian experts who have experienced grief), **group support discussions** with facilitators, and a **personal workbook**. This is an 8-week program and will run from January 14 - March 4, 2025 on Tuesdays from 7:00-9:00pm. Free will giving/ \$20 charge for the booklet. For registration, contact the Parish Office at 403-249-0423 or email: peggy.tan@shaw.ca.

Pilgrimage to Rome 2025 | November 19-27, 2025

Consider joining Fr. Edmund on a holy pilgrimage to Rome on November 19-27 this coming Holy Year 2025! This is a special time to visit the very heart of the Church on Her jubilee year, a tradition with biblical roots, re-started in 1300 AD. We visit the seven (7) designated Jubilee Churches, including the four major basilicas of St. Peter's, St. Mary Major, St. John Lateran, and St. Paul Outside the Walls. We enter the Holy Door (Porta Sancta) at St. Peter's, Basilica, the Scala Santa, the catacombs, and other holy places. We will also see Pope Francis in a general audience on Sunday, November 23 and on Wednesday, November 26. We also make a road trip to Assisi where St. Francis started his ministry of renewal. Please check it out online at <https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1241218>. For more details, contact Fr. Edmund at efvargas@shaw.ca or 403-249-0423, ext.108.

Pastoral Council Update

Pastoral Council met on November 26, 2024 - our last meeting of the year. A few highlights of our discussions, and wonderful ways to begin the season of Advent and support SMCC include: * The High School Choral Festival at SMCC on December 2, * The Diocesan Advent Renewal Mission on December 3 - 5, * The Fund Forward Fundraiser of high-quality protein-products (closes on December 1). Watch the website, the bulletin, and Flocknote messages in your inbox for more details. Meeting minutes from November 26 will be available on the website after our next meeting on January 28, 2025. If you would like to attend one of our meetings as an observer, or if you have any questions or concerns, please reach us at 403-249-0423. To read the minutes from our meeting in October, or any past meeting, please go to: <http://saintmichael.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/SMCC-Pastoral-Council-Minutes-of-Meeting-October-29-2024-Bulletin.pdf>. We wish all parishioners and their families a happy and holy Advent, and blessings for peace and joy at Christmas!

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul

If you have lost your job, or you know of someone who needs assistance, please contact us by email SSVP@saintmichael.ca or phone 403-249-0423, ext. 122. DONATIONS of non-perishables and monetary can be dropped off in the SSVP Food Chest in the Church' Gathering Area. MONETARY DONATIONS can also be done online through <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/st-vincent-de-paul-society-st-michaels-conference/>. WE ARE LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS. If you are interested, contact us by email SSVP@saintmichael.ca or phone 403-249-0423, ext. 122. You may visit us at <https://www.ssvpstmichael.ca/>. You can follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61566475437004>

Pulpitations by Fr. Edmund Vargas

Check out this article featuring our beloved Pastor and his recent publication, Pulpitations. The book is excellent and thoughtful work! <https://www.catholiccyv.ca/blog/pulpitations>



Diocese of Calgary Beyond Bulletin (Short Version): [Current Bulletin Insert.pdf - Google Drive](#)

Diocese of Calgary Beyond Bulletin (Full Version): [Diocesan Info for Parishioners - Sunday Updates - Google Docs](#)

Weekly Events:

Sundays: *Children's Liturgy:* Guardian Angel Room, Session A: 8:30am and Session B: 10:30am/ *Coffee Connection:* After 9am and 11am Mass
Mondays: *Bible Study:* St. Nicholas Room, 7:00-9:00pm
Tuesdays: *Rosary Group:* Day Chapel, 6:30pm / *RCIA:* St. Nicholas Room, 7:00-9:00pm
Wednesdays: *Coffee Connection:* 9:30am / *Men's Ministry:* Theatre, 6:00-7:30am (last session Dec. 4, 2024, resumes Jan. 8, 2025) / *Women's Ministry Bible Study:* at the Church 9:30am-12:00pm or Zoom 7-9pm
Thursdays: *Moms and Tots:* St. Nicholas Room, 9:30-11:30am / *Knitting Ministry:* Library, 10:00am-12:00pm

December 2024:

December 4	Men's Ministry, Last Session, Resumes Jan. 8, 2025
December 5	Mom's and Tots Last Session, Resumes January 2025
December 7	NEW DATE AND TIME: Face-to-Face Ministries for Gr. 6-8 Sanctuary 6:30-8:30pm
December 8	Children's Nativity Pageant Rehearsal Sanctuary 12:00-2:00pm
December 8	Potluck Sunday Narthex 6:00pm
December 9	Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Day Chapel Mass at 9:00am and 6:00pm
December 10	Fundraiser: Pick Up Orders 4:00-5:00pm
December 10	CWL Monthly Meeting St. Michael's Room 6:30pm
December 12, 19, 26	CANCELLED: Moms & Tots
December 15, 29	CANCELLED: Coffee Sunday
December 15	Children's Nativity Pageant Rehearsal Sanctuary 12:00-2:00pm
December 16	Christmas Hamper Delivery Day Mass 8:30am Preparation All Day Delivery Evening
December 19	Parish Wide Reconciliation Night Sanctuary 7:00-9:00pm
December 19	CANCELLED: Knights of Columbus Meeting
December 20	Children's Nativity Pageant Sanctuary Mass 6:00pm Pageant 6:30pm Cookies & Juice 7:30pm
December 21	Simbang Gabi Sanctuary Caroling 6:30pm Mass 7:00pm Reception 7:30pm
Dec. 22, 29, Jan. 5	CANCELLED: Children's Liturgy
Dec. 24, 31	CANCELLED: Rosary Group
December 26	CANCELLED: Knitting Ministry
Dec. 25 to Jan. 1	Office Closed

Eternal Springs Columbarium

The Columbarium at St. Michael's offers a consecrated and sacred space where the cremated remains of departed loved ones rest in perpetuity. For pricing or more information, please email columbarium@saintmichael.ca.

Pray For Our Seminarians:

Peter An, Andre Boudreau, Joshua Capicio, Bennet Chacko, Jonathan Dobek, Samuel Ejeregbe, Evin George, Solomon Ip, Jeffrell Painaga, Antonio Pasqualotto, Mikhel Sari, Benjamin Taylor, Joshua Walter

Please Pray For:

If you would like to request a prayer for a loved one, please email the office with your request, noting consent.

Rina VandeGeer
Lenore Youngberg
Susan Neri
Leo Pelletier
Elizabeth Myers
Maddy Azalea

Allison George
Julian Dumanski
Maria Duri
Pietro Duri Jr.
Peitro Duri Sr.
Rosa Duri

Talia Duri
Nenite Mirales
Gioia Ceccarini
Helen Gal
Pat Burchnall
Sy Huynh

For the Souls of:

Elena Yarza-Parra

Funeral:

Sexual Abuse in the Church

Many suffer in silence. Perhaps you are affected by the news of sexual abuse of minors in the Church; perhaps you are a sexual abuse survivor or a relative of a friend of someone who was abused; perhaps you know about an abuse; perhaps you have sexually abused someone. Break the cycle of silence: you can choose to talk about it.

Call the Roman Catholic Diocese of Calgary's hotline at
1 833-547-8360.

E-Transfer:

You can now donate using e-transfer service. Sign in to your own banking institution and e-transfer the amount to: isupport@saintmichael.ca.

Text to Donate:

Don't carry cash? You can now use text messaging to donate any amount to St. Michael's. To set up your account, text *give* to **833-768-0514** and follow the prompt. Once you're in, text any amount to the same number - anytime.

Gifts to the Parish

	August 2024	September 2024	October 2024
General Collections			
Collections	\$75,187	\$81,345	\$120,684
Other Income	\$27,514	\$26,566	\$32,644
Operating Costs	\$127,350	\$119,780	\$124,803
Surplus (shortfall) YTD Optg Costs	(\$24,649)	(\$11,869)	\$25,525
Central Fund Loan (Mortgage)			
Building Fund Collections	\$11,057	\$16,674	\$16,540
Current Loan Balance	\$3,467,753	\$3,444,039	\$3,420,620
Diocesan Annual Campaign			
Together in Action YTD	\$34,565	\$37,456	\$40,428
% TIA Goal \$121,243.00	28.5%	30.8%	33%
Society St. Vincent de Paul (monthly)	\$1,928	\$3,733	\$7,333

Mass Intentions

*If you would like to book a Mass Intention, please visit the office.
Mass Intentions are not final and can be moved
to accommodate urgent pastoral needs.*

Saturday, December 7:

5 pm: Intentions of Hurtado Family

Sunday, December 8: 2nd Sunday of Advent

9 am: Intentions of Angie Marsales

11 am: For the People of God at St. Michael's

5 pm: Antonio Vespa †

Monday, December 9: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

9 am: Intentions of Rosemary Pangilinan

6 pm: Intentions of Bill Howells

Tuesday, December 10:

6 pm: Giovanni Straface †

Wednesday, December 11:

9 am: Intentions of Caroline and Tedman Williams Family

Thursday, December 12:

9 am: Intentions of Antonio and Coralia Sevilla

Friday, December 13:

9 am: Bill Tapuska †

Saturday, December 14:

5 pm: Intentions of Victora James

Sunday, December 15: 3rd Sunday of Advent

9 am: Antonio Garcia †

11 am: For the People of God at St. Michael's

5 pm: Antonio Vespa †

Contact Us

For General 403-249-0423

Inquiries info@saintmichael.ca

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